2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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windows the ground slipping by. We stopped just in time and I expected to be told we would have to wait for a relief aircraft, but no, without more ado, we taxied all the way back and tried again. This time no-one waved at anyone. The spectators were much too interested to see whether the plane succeeded in getting off on this second attempt to think of anything else, and we in the plane were similarly preoccupied with more excuse since we were more closely concerned. Nothing exciting happened, and half an hour later we landed safely in Aden. My luck had held to the end of my Service life. My thirty odd years in the wilder parts of the Middle East and in the more turbulent areas in Pakistan, have been strangely devoid of startling adventure, so much so that I am often envious of the wonderful adventures which seem to befall some travellers in as many weeks, or indeed days.

LAHEJ

Down in the western corner of the Protectorate the Sultan of Lahej was drinking heavily and marrying with a frequency which bewildered the local Qadhi who got his registers in a muddle. Fadl had succeeded his father, His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim bin Fadl, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., some three years before I became Governor, and for a time had devoted himself wholeheartedly to the affairs of his State. When he was about eighteen years of age his father had broken with tradition and named Fadl, his eldest son, as his heir, to the intense irritation of a collateral branch of the Ruling house who considered that their rights had thereby been infringed. There was a plot to murder the heir, and one afternoon Fadl came off the tennis court in Lahej all unsuspecting to speak to a petitioner who had at one time been in his service. As the lad approached, the petitioner drew a revolver and shot him through the left eye and in the groin. He was hurried to the hospital in Aden and later was taken to Newcastle, where thanks to the skill of Professor Gray-Turner he recovered from his wounds, outwardly little affected, but inwardly he had suffered a blow from which he never really recovered. He felt the loss of his

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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left eye terribly, and it impaired not only his actual physical vision, but what was much worse, his mental vision.

By 1951 he had ceased to take any real interest in his State, and had taken to drinking heavily, and my own efforts to persuade him to pull himself together were no more effective than those of my predecessor. He became more and more eccentric and when the worse for liquor he was not responsible for his actions. The end came one wild night when, more than usually irritated by his relatives, he had two of them tied to stakes in his front garden and shot them himself from the flat roof of his house. I immediately called him to account, and on my learning that the night after the murders he had fled to the Yemen, Lahej was occupied by the Aden Protectorate Levies and the Government Guards, and I went out personally and supervised the formation of a Council of Regency to manage the affairs of the State until the Electoral College could be called together in a more reasonable atmosphere to decide on a successor.

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On his way to the Yemen, Fadl passed through the country of his inveterate enemy the Haushabi Sultan, and that gentleman never forgave himself for being fast asleep when the fugitive passed within a few feet of his door. Fadl found no refuge in the Yemen where his deeds had shocked even the Imam, a man whose treatment of some of his own relations had been drastic, though not altogether without reason, and he was forced to move on to Jedda where I believe he still lives. I liked him and I shall always feel very sorry for him because he never really had much of a chance. With sympathetic treatment from his father and others in his youth, his character could have been strengthened, and he would then have made a good and able Ruler. Whatever may have been his faults, he retained the respect and the affection of his people to the end of his short reign, and even after he had gone they continued to speak well of him. He treated them well and never subjected them to the fits of temper which his relations came to dread.

In due course the Electoral College met and Sultan Fadl was formally deposed and the Amir Ali, his young half-brother, was